

Message Text

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15
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 L-03 HEW-04 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9465

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB EFIN SWEL IR
SUBJ: IRANIAN SOCIAL SECURITY LAW

REF A. STATE 214438 B. TEHRAN 8432

1. FIRST SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT OFFICE OF DR. NEGHBAT,
UNDER SECRETARY/MINISTRY HEALTH AND WELFARE COULD OFFER
WAS 10:00 A.M. OCTOBER 5. AFTER WAITING 40 MINUTES, ECON
COUNSELOR AND EMBOFF WERE TOLD THAT NEGHBAT WAS TIED UP
WITH MINISTER AND WERE REFERRED TO HIS DEPUTY, DR. YOUSEFIZADEH.

2. ECON COUNSELOR OUTLINED SITUATION DESCRIBED IN AIDE-
MEMOIRE LEFT AT MINISTRY (SUBSTANCE OF DISCUSSION CONTAINED
IN TEHRAN 8432) CULMINATING IN REQUEST THAT CONSIDERATION
BE GIVEN TO ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES WHEREBY EXPATRIATES
WHO ARE DOCUMENTED CONTRIBUTORS TO THE US SOCIAL SECURITY
SYSTEM CAN OBTAIN EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF BOTH INDIVIDUAL
AND CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO GOI SYSTEM.

3. DR. YOUSEFIZADEH HAD THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

(A) NEW LAW HAS NOW TAKEN EFFECT AND MINISTRY IS NO
LINGER ENTERTAINING REQUESTS FOR EXEMPTIONS
(PROCEDURE DESCRIBED REF B) AS OF ABOUT ONE
MONTH AGO(COULD NOT GIVE EXACT DATE).

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(B) STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT NEW LAW AS WRITTEN MEANS

THERE ARE NO EXEMPTIONS OTHER THAN THE POSSIBILITY OF IRANIAN EMPLOYEES WORKING FOR FOREIGN EMBASSIES. MINISTRY WOULD PREFER EMPLOYEES IN THIS CATEGORY TO BE COVERED UNDER NEW LAW BUT WILL LEAVE OPTION TO EMBASSIES.

(C) MENTIONED THAT MINHEALTH/WELFARE HAS ALREADY WRITTEN TO SEVERAL EMBASSIES (SPECIFICALLY UK, FRANCE AND GERMANY) REQUESTING THEIR VIEWS ON MEANS OF PURSUING EXEMPTIONS. ALTHOUGH AMERICAN EMBASSY HAS NOT YET RECEIVED SUCH A LETTER, HE IMPLIED THAT MINISTRY PLANNED TO SOLICIT VIEWS OF A NUMBER OF OTHER EMBASSIES IN NEAR FUTURE. FYI. TAX TREATIES DO NOT COVER SPECIFICALLY SUBJECT OF SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM AND, ALTHOUGH EXISTING TREATIES MAY PROVIDE FRAMEWORK, SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS WOULD PRESUMABLY STILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS, DR. YOUSEFIZADEH SAID THAT IT WOULD BE MOST IMPORTANT TO COMPARE SITUATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES TO DETERMINE WHAT ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND PROVIDED THAT, AFTER STUDY, AGREEMENT TO AN EXEMPTION PROCEDURE WOULD BE IN IRAN'S BEST INTEREST.

5. DR. YOUSEFIZADEH PROMISED THAT A RESPONSE TO THE PRESENTATION CONTAINED IN US AIDE-MEMOIRE WOULD BE TRANSMITTED SHORTLY VIA COVERING DIPLOMATIC NOTE FROM MINFORAFFAIRS.

6. COMMENT. DESPITE DR. YOUSEFIZADEH'S LIMITED ENGLISH, MESSAGE CLEARLY WAS THAT FIRST LINE POSITION WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE SOME FORM OF RECIPROCITY. HOWEVER, UNTIL RECEIPT OF FORMAL RESPONSE OR TYPE OF INQUIRY MENTIONED PARA 3(C) ABOVE WE CANNOT GIVE PRECISE REACTION. POST WILL TRANSMIT RESPONSE AS SOON AS RECEIVED AND IN MEANTIME IS CANVASSING PRIVATE SECTOR AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL (A).
HELMS

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